

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 L-01 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1238

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1151

LIMDIS

E.O. GDS

TAGS: CG, US PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR HINTON

SUMMARY: WE ARE STILL NOT SURE WHAT LIES BEHIND AN EDITORIAL
PUBLISHED IN ELIMA TODAY AND SUMMARIZED BELOW. (FULL TEXT
SEPTEL.) I HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TONIGHT
AND I PROPOSE TO SMOKE HIM OUT IF I CAN. ANY THOUGHTS
DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE PRIOR TO MEETING WOULD BE WELCOME. IT WOULD
PROBABLY ALSO BE HELPFUL IF DEPARTMENT CALLED IN AMBASSADOR MBEKA
TODAY. END SUMMARY

1. KINSHASA DAILY ELIMA FOR FEBRUARY 7 PUBLISHED
FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL ENTITLED "AN AMERICAN IN KINSHASA" WHICH
SUMMARIZES AND GIVES LENGTHY EXTRACTS FROM JEUNE AFRIQUE ARTICLE
(PARIS 02853), AND COMMENTS THAT THE ARTICLE DESERVES TO BE TAKEN
SERIOUSLY. EDITOR RECALLS THAT AT RECENT AAI CONFERENCE MOBUTU
EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR AMERICAN SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY IN ZAIRE'S
DARKEST HOURS BUT ALSO CRITICIZED US POLICY IN AFRICA AND EXPRESSED
HIS CONCERN OVER REPLACEMENT OF SECRETARY EASUM BY FORMER US
AMBASSADOR TO CHILE ("A PERSON WITH A SHADY PAST"). EDITOR
SAYS MOBUTU'S SPEECH WAS A CALL TO USG TO ADOPT REALISTIC
POLICY IN AFRICA THAT AT SAME TIME IT UNDERSCORED ZAIRE-US
FRIENDSHIP.

2. EDITOR GOES ON TO SAY ZAIRE'S POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP NOW
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INCLUDES COUNTRIES OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL SYSTEMS, WITH NO

MEDDLING IN ZAIRE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS TOLERATED. ZAIRE IS NO LONGER EXPERIMENTAL GROUND FOR VARIOUS KINDS OF IMPERIALISM. NIGHT AND DAY PEOPLE ARE WATCHING OVER THEIR REVOLUTION. WHAT JEUNE AFRIQUE ARTICLE SAYS ABOUT AMBASSADOR HINTON CANNOT BE MATTER OF CONCERN FOR ZAIRE AS WHOLE. NEVERTHELESS, IT DESERVES ATTENTION OF MPR LEADERS BECAUSE, WITH HUGE TASKES FACING ZAIRIANS, THEY HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE ON STRING PULLERS AND FOMENTORS OF POLOTS. AND EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, "OUR OPINION ON SUBJECT OF PROBLEM RAISED BY JEUNE AFRIQUE, IF THERE IS A PROBLEM, IS CONTAINED IN PROVERB THAT SAYS THE HEEDLESS FISHERMAN ENDS UP BY DROWNING."

3. COMMENT. APPEARANCE OF ELIMA EDITORIAL APPEARS TO BE PART OF CAMPAIGN THAT SURFACED WHEN MOBUTU MADE HIS AAI SPEECH LAST MONTH COMMENTING ON DAVIS. NEXT MANIFESTATION WAS MARCHAL ARTICLE IN MOBUTU'S BELGIAN MOUTHPIECE, SPECIAL, MISREPRESENTING MY EFFORTS TO CONVEY PRIVATELY MY CONCERN TO THE PRESIDENT AFTER HIS AAI SPEECH. THEN CAME THE EDITORIAL IN JEUNE AFRIQUE WHICH WE BELIEVE TO HAVE BEEN INSPIRED OR INSTIGATED BY GOZ. AND NOW COMES THE ELIMA RTICLE WHO PUBLICATION ALMOST CETAINLY HAS TO HAVE HIGH-LEVEL APPROVAL IN NIEW OF ITS POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.

4. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHAT MOTIVATES THIS CAMPAIGN. IT COULD BE PERSONAL PIQUE OR, AS LONG-TIME MOBUTU OBSERVER LARRY DEVLIN SAYS, CONSCIOUS EFFORT BY PRESIENT TO DISTANCE HIMSELF FROM ALLEGATIONS OF PAST CIA CONNECTIONS. ON OTHER HAND, THERE MAY BE SOME REAL CONCERN. DEVLIN REPORTS THAT MOBUTU RECENTLY TAXED HIM WITH CHARGE BASED ON MARCHETTI BOOK THAT AID'S INTERNATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY IN WASHINGTON, TO WHICH GOZ HAS SENT MANY OFFICIALS, WAS RECRUITING GROUND FOR CIA AGENTS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT MOBUTU GENINELY SUSPECTS I HAVE CIA CONNECTION AND WANTS ME TO DEPART. IN THIS CONNECTION, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PRESIDENT BO-BOLIKO TOLD EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE YESTERDAY (FEB.6) "I HAVE IMPRESSION THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU IS AFRAID OF THE AMBASSADOR." (SEE SEPTTEL)

5. IN ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT, I HAVE OBTAINED APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINSTER MANDUNGU BULA FOR 2130 LOCAL TIME THIS EVENING. I INTEND TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH HIM AND TO SEEK HIS ADVICE CONCERNING LETTER I WILL SAY I AM PROPOSING THAT MY PAO SEND TO EDITOR OF ELIMA. (LETTER CONVEYS MY REGRET THAT ELIMA HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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LENT ITSELF TO CAMPAIGN TENDING TO DIVIDE ZAIRE AND US. POINTS OUT THAT ALLEGATIONS MADE IN JEUNE AFREQUE, AND REPRODUCED IN ELIMA, NOT NEW, BUT HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED IN LATIN AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE BY ANTI-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS. WHILE CHARGES FALSE, AMBASSADOR WELL AWARE THERE IS NO WAY TO DISPROVE THEM. HIS COMMENTS ON THESE CHARGES STEM FROM OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO MAINTENANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN USG AND GOZ. AND HE IS CONFIDENT THAT COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS BETWEEN TWO

GOVERNMENTS AND DEPTH OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO PEOPLES ARE SUCH THAT INCIDENT WILL SOON BE FORGOTTEN). I WILL ASK BULA WHETHER HE BELIEVES SUCH LETTER WOULD HELP CLEAR THE AIR AND IF HE HAS ANY SUGGESTIONS OF HIS OWN FOR REMOVING POSSIBLE MIS-UNDERSTANDING. I WILL PROBABLY REQUEST AN AUDIENCE WITH MOBUTU FOR GENERAL REVIEW OF US-GOZ RELATIONS. ANY FURTHER IDEAS DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE ON MY APPROACH TO BULA WOULD BE WELCOME.

6. IN ANY CASE, I THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE DEPARTMENT COULD CALL IN AMBASSADOR MBEKA TO CONVEY OUR CONCERN OVER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS PRESS CAMPAIGN PREFERABLY FOLLOWING LINE OF DRAFT PAO LETTER. SINCE BULA WITH HIS LEFT CONSPIRATORIAL AND PROPAGANDIST BACKGROUND AS WELL AS WITH CONTACTS IN EUROPEAN PRESS (HE WAS UNTIL LAST YEAR SPECIAL'S CORRESPONDENT IN BRUSSELS), IS MOST LIKELY SINGLE DIRECTOR OF CAMPAIGN, CONVERSATION SHOULD MAKE MY DAY.
HINTON

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